

# United Kingdom

## Advising Center Network

The EducationUSA Advising Center of the US-UK Fulbright Commission is the UK's only official source of information on educational exchange opportunities in the US. The Center offers a wide range of advising services, seminars and outreach events for prospective students and parents, in collaboration with 12 regional information centers at UK universities.

## Recent Trends: US-UK Exchange

- **Increasing Transatlantic Exchange:** The number of UK students choosing to study in the US continues to grow. In 2006/2007, 8,438 UK students pursued university study in the US, an increase of 2% from the previous year (Open Doors, 2007).
- Likewise, the UK remains the leading destination for US students with more than 46,000 Americans studying in the UK in 2005/06 (Open Doors, UKCISA, 2007).
- **Level of Study:** Approximately half of UK students in the US study at the undergraduate level, while one third study at the graduate level (Open Doors, 2007).
- **Areas of Interest:** An increasing number of students are interested in short-term study, non-degree seeking or work-related programs.
- The most popular states for UK students include: California, New York, Massachusetts, Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Georgia and Indiana.

## Resource Links

- **US-UK Fulbright Commission:** [www.fulbright.co.uk](http://www.fulbright.co.uk)

## Upcoming Events 2009

- **USA College Day - Oct. 3, 2009:** Annual undergraduate study fair
- **USA Grad School Day - 5 March 2009:** Annual postgraduate study event
- **In-house Seminars:** Two-hour seminars held throughout the year on undergraduate study, postgraduate study and sports scholarship opportunities in the US, as well as pre-departure orientations. Dates and registration information at: [www.fulbright.co.uk](http://www.fulbright.co.uk)
- **Outreach Events:** Fair attendance and informational talks on studying in the US given at UK secondary schools and universities throughout the year
- **Fulbright Awards:** Awards offered annually by the US-UK Fulbright Commission for postgraduate study, research and lecturing in the US and UK. For award categories and application information, please see: [www.fulbright.co.uk](http://www.fulbright.co.uk)
- **Special Events:** Launch of a new advising website, as well as celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the US-UK Fulbright Commission
- **Advising Services:** Email and phone advising, as well as access to print resources on studying in the US at the Fulbright Resource Library

## Partnering with EducationUSA in the UK

The Commission offers unique opportunities to US universities recruiting UK students and organizations interested in promoting US-UK exchange opportunities including:

- **Advising services for prospective UK students:** Don't hesitate to refer prospective students to our advising website, as well as to the events and seminars noted above!
- **USA College Day:** Reach thousands of prospective undergraduate students, parents and advisors at USA College Day by exhibiting (staff, student or alumni representatives welcome), advertising to attendees and/or sponsoring the event.
- **Email alerts:** E-alerts are sent to prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students each month and include advising tips and information about upcoming events. Hosting an information session in the UK? Or does your university offer scholarships specifically for UK or international students? Email [education@fulbright.co.uk](mailto:education@fulbright.co.uk) to have your announcement included in the next e-alert.
- **Resource Library:** Include your university's prospectus/viewbook in the Reference Library. Materials may be mailed to: US-UK Fulbright Commission, AMEMBASSY London, Pass to Fulbright, FPO AE 09498-4062.
- **Exam proctoring:** Students may email [education@fulbright.co.uk](mailto:education@fulbright.co.uk) for more information
- **Internships and Volunteer Opportunities:** Internships and volunteer opportunities at the Commission are available for current students and recent graduates interested in gaining experience in international education.

## Country Contacts

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## 07-08 Highlights

### College Day 2008 – Annual Fair Promoting Undergraduate Study in the US

With a line stretching down the streets of Central London, nearly 3,000 visitors throughout the day and over 100 exhibitors, College Day 2008 was a huge success. For 31 years, this annual event has been a unique opportunity for UK students and parents to meet one-on-one with representatives from US universities and educational service providers.

The Commission would like to thank the 2008 exhibitors, attendees, and sponsors for contributing to the event's success. For more information about College Day 2009, email [collegeday@fulbright.co.uk](mailto:collegeday@fulbright.co.uk).



### Advising and Outreach Highlights:

- 15 "Undergraduate Study in the US" seminars, averaging 30 attendees each
- 8 "Postgraduate Study in the US" seminars
- 3 "Sports Scholarships" and 2 work experience seminars
- Re-introduction of a pre-departure orientation
- Attendance at 42 outreach events at UK secondary schools and universities
- An average of 21,000 visitors per month to the advising website
- More than 300 visitors to the Resource Library, 1,100 email inquiries and 1,500 phone inquiries



### Key EducationUSA Partners

- US Embassy in London
- Regional and Secondary Information Centers
- US universities
- UK universities and secondary schools
- Commercial partners and sponsors

Country Statistics	2006	2007
Number of students in the US (Open Doors):	8,274	8,438
Number of center contacts (not including web traffic):	5,042	5,986

## Secondary Education:

Secondary education includes Years 7 - 11 (US grades 6 - 10), and students may attend a state or public school (private school in the US). Students at state schools follow a national curriculum, and school is mandatory to age 16.

At the end of Year 11, students take national standardized exams, the GCSE exams (General Certificate of Secondary Education). Students may choose the number and subject of their exams (from the 48 GCSE exams available). However, English, Math and Science are required subjects, and UK universities typically expect students to take at least five GCSE exams.

Students continuing on an academic track after GCSEs attend sixth form colleges during Years 12-13. Students on a work-based training scheme after GCSEs may earn vocational qualifications, such as the NVQ or BTEC.

At sixth form colleges, students sit AS-Level (Advanced Subsidiary) at the end of Year 12 and A2-Level exams at the end of Year 13. Teacher assessment of coursework and AS/A2-Level scores, ranging from A - E, are used to calculate the final A-Level results, awarded in the summer after Year 13. Students may choose the number and subjects of their A-Level exams (from the 80+ subjects available). However, UK universities typically expect students to complete at least two A-Level exams, and some courses (degree programs) may specify A-Level subjects and results required for admission.

Note: UK schools may not have the ability to print a student transcript on demand; rather, students often have to work with teachers and counselors to “create” a transcript for US university applications. At the time of application, US universities can assess students based on SAT/ACT, GCSE and AS-Level scores, as well as predicted A-Level results determined by the student’s teacher. Keep in mind that that students do not receive US-style GPAs or class ranks.

## Higher Education:

### Undergraduate Study:

Most courses for undergraduate study last three years. Some vocational and language study courses are longer. (Note that medicine and law are studied at the undergraduate level, unlike in the US.)

UK students apply to a maximum of five universities through a centralized application portal, UCAS. Students apply to the academic department, rather than to the university at large. Admissions decisions center upon the student’s academic record and potential and are based on the assessment of: a 47-line personal statement; one letter of recommendation from a school representative; GCSE, AS-level and predicted A-level results; and an application fee of £5-15 (\$10-30). Students are given an offer of admission, conditional upon earning specified A-Level results.

UK undergraduate courses do not follow a liberal arts philosophy. Rather, students choose their field of study at the time of application and take the majority if not all of their modules (classes) in that field. Students are often assessed by a major exam or paper completed at the end of each module. Final degree results (grades) are expressed in terms of: 1:1 - First Class Honours, 2:1 - Upper-Second Class Honours, 2:2 - Lower-Second Class Honours, 2:3 - Third, Pass and/or Fail.

As of 1997-98, UK students pay fees to attend university. Fees are set by individual institutions or departments, but are limited by a cap set by the UK government which will be reviewed in 2010. The maximum fees for 2008/09 is £3,145.

### Postgraduate Study:

Master’s Degrees may be either taught or research-based and last one to two years. PhD programs last three years and primarily focus on self-directed research. Results for Master’s courses are classified as: Distinction, Merit (for some but not all courses), Pass and Fail. Results for doctoral courses are classified as: Pass or Fail.

At the postgraduate level, UK students apply to each university individually, and admission decisions are made by the department. Generally, applicants must have at least a 2:2 at the undergraduate level.

At the postgraduate level, funding is often available through field-specific research councils. Some research and teaching assistantships are also available from the university, but not on the same scale as the US.



### UK Education System Overview:

Level of Study	Grade / Degree
Primary School	Years 1 - 6 (US: Kindergarten - 5th)
Secondary School	Years 7 - 11 (US: 6th - 10th Grade)
Sixth Form or Work-based Training	Years 12-13 (US: 11th - 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade)
Undergraduate Study	Bachelor’s
Postgraduate Study	Postgraduate Certificates /Diplomas, Master’s, Doctoral

### UK Education Resource Links:

- **Study in the UK section of the US-UK Fulbright Commission website:** [www.fulbright.co.uk](http://www.fulbright.co.uk),
- **Undergraduate Study:** [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)
- **Higher Education:** [www.britishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.britishcouncil.co.uk) [www.hero.ac.uk](http://www.hero.ac.uk)
- **UK Educational System:** [www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk) [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) [www.educationuk.org](http://www.educationuk.org)

### Terminology:

US	UK
Grade (as in an indicator of assessment)	Mark, result
Grade (as in year in school)	Year
School	Refers to a place of primary or secondary education
College	Short for sixth form college, a place of secondary study
University	Refers to a place of graduate study
Class, course	Module
Degree Program	Course
Graduate Study	Postgraduate Study